

TOWN OF CHATHAM | MA



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

SHAREEN DAVIS | CHAIR

PETER COCOLIS | VICE-CHAIR

DEAN NICASTRO | CLERK

CORY METTERS | MEMBER

JEFFREY DYKENS | MEMBER



DEAR RESIDENTS & BUSINESS OWNERS:

April 14, 2020

Flatten The Curve

As we enter our 5th week of social distancing and 4th week under Governor Baker's Stay-at-Home advisory, it is important that we not relax our adherence to these important measures aimed at flattening the curve of infections. Now is the time to double down on our efforts.

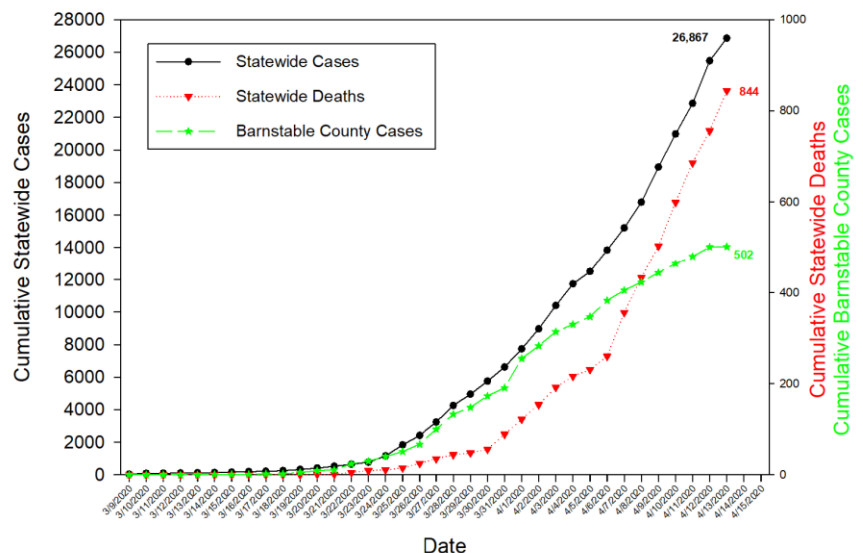
**CHATHAM CASE
COUNT
4/14/2020
Total: 4**

Please restrict your outings to essential trips to grocery stores and pharmacies or to work if you are part of an essential business. When you do have to go out in public, please adhere to the Governor's advisory to wear a cloth face covering or mask. Doing so will protect you from possible exposure from others and protect others from you if you are an asymptomatic carrier of the virus. We can all play a role in keeping case counts here in Town low, flattening the curve in Barnstable County, and allowing needed resources to be deployed to areas of the Commonwealth which have been harder hit.

Thank you,

Jill R. Goldsmith, Town Manager

COVID-19 in Massachusetts



April 13, 2020
Data from MA Department of Public Health

TOWN OF CHATHAM | DEPARTMENT HEADS

Peter Connick
Fire Chief

Mark Pawlina
Police Chief

Thomas Temple
DPW Director

Alix Heilala
Finance Director

Jillian Douglass
Human Resources

Dr. Robert Duncanson
Health & Natural Resources

Kathleen Donovan
Community Development

Terry Whelan
Principal Projects & Operations

Julie Smith
Town Clerk

Daniel Tobin
Parks & Recreation

Amanda Speakman
Council on Aging



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Board of Selectmen Action

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) continues to hold weekly virtual meetings each Monday with remote public participation. The meetings are broadcasted live on Channel 18 and the website. At its meeting on April 13, 2020, they discussed the effect of COVID-19 - on the current fiscal year's budget, available relief to taxpayers, priorities for Fiscal Year 2021, and scheduling of the Annual Town Meeting and Elections.

The BOS voted to extend the due dates for property tax/personal property tax, water, sewer, and motor vehicle excise bills with a due date after March 10, 2020 to June 1, 2020 to provide relief to taxpayers. Interest will be waived until June 1 on these bills to coincide with the new due date.

The Town Manager reported that she will present an austere/revised FY2021 budget which includes reductions in local revenue forecasts and reductions to Operating/Capital budgets for the next BOS meeting on April 27. The BOS at that time will review Town Meeting warrant articles and debt exclusion ballot questions.

The BOS voted to schedule the Annual Town Election on June 25, 2020 (current State legislation requires it to be held by June 30, 2020), understanding that additional State legislation may extend that date.

Board of Health Action

The Board of Health ratified the practice of posting the Town's specific COVID-19 positive case count on the Town's website. Staff will update the count as information is available from the Commonwealth's reporting database. It is important to note that as testing increases across Massachusetts, it may take a few days for a local case to be entered in the system.

In response to concerns regarding ongoing construction work in Town and the Governor's guidance on protocols for workers on construction sites, the Board tasked Health Agent Giorgio with developing handouts for workers and more detailed information for foremen and business owners on maintaining social distancing, handwashing, and the importance of face coverings when social distancing is not possible on the job site.



Taking Care of Our Own

Chatham Fire Department personnel took the initiative to construct a spray disinfection system from common hardware items after seeing a YouTube video posted by the Tulsa, OK Fire Department (<https://youtu.be/6wYWJPMgXPg>). For under \$200, and in less than an hour, Fire Fighter Harry Fietz and his shift partners were able to build a unit which can be used with either a portable breathing air cylinder or connected to an in-house air hose system used to fill tires.

The advantage of the system is that rather than the time consuming process of manually wiping down the interiors of ambulances and all equipment that is either used or exposed after every patient encounter the firefighters can aerosolize a fine mist of cleaning solution and allow it to air dry. What took 3-4 people 30+ minutes can be accomplished in 1-2 minutes followed by a 5-10 minutes dry time at a reduced cost.

The system is used to routinely decon the cabs of the fire apparatus each shift and the FD has offered to decon the police cruisers and the holding areas at the police station as necessary.

Chatham's Emergency Operations Center is available M-F, 8 a.m. 4 p.m. and can be reached at 508-945-5191 or via email to chathameoc@chatham-ma.gov. Visit www.chatham-ma.gov for more information.

JILL R. GOLDSMITH | CHATHAM TOWN MANAGER

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